

Secures Earmarks for Mental Health, Education, Community Health Programs

July 24, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that includes \$950,000 in earmarks Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) secured for education and health programs in the Third Congressional District. The funding was included in the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments Appropriations bill (H.R. 3293). This annual funding bill invests in education programs for at-risk children, job training and placement initiatives, community health centers for uninsured and underinsured Americans, training for nurses and other healthcare professionals in fields with shortages, biomedical research, and other investments. The Labor-HHS-Education bill also cuts wasteful spending by eliminating 28 programs and reducing funding for another 16 programs, for a total savings of \$1.3 billion. *Secures Earmarks for Mental Health, Education, Community Health Programs*

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"These earmarks target federal funding at important educational and health care programs in south Louisiana, and I am pleased the House is supporting them," said Congressman Melancon. "Funding for the Center for Wellness and Mental Health in Chalmette will help those Louisianians still suffering from the emotional trauma of Katrina get the professional care they need to recover. Providing quality, affordable health care in underserved communities is also an important need in our state, and this bill will provide funding for Tulane University to train more community health professionals to meet this need."

"The Louisiana Rural Literacy Program and the 21st Century Community Learning Center are helping our at-risk kids catch up in school, giving them the extra boost they need to succeed academically. Investing in our children is an investment in Louisiana's future, and I am pleased both programs will receive federal funding this year to support their good work."

Congressman Melancon secured the following earmarks in the House-passed 2010 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill:

Health Care

— **\$100,000 for Center for Wellness and Mental Health in St. Bernard Parish.** Funding will be used for the expansion of services at the Community Wellness and Mental Health Center in Chalmette, LA. The Center is a partnership between the St. Bernard Project and LSU Health Sciences Center Psychiatry Department.

— **\$250,000 for Community Health Worker Training Institute at Tulane University.** Funds will be used to train community health professionals at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Education

— **\$300,000 for Louisiana Rural Literacy Program.** Funding will be used to continue Save the Children's in-school, summer, and afterschool literacy programs in Washington, St. Martin, and Tangipahoa parishes. Funding may be used to purchase new equipment and technology to support the literacy program.

— **\$300,000 for 21st Century Community Learning Center in LaPlace.** Funding will be used by the River Region Multicultural Chamber Of Commerce to develop after-school and summer academic enrichment programs for at-risk children in the River Parishes.

A complete list of the earmarks Congressman Melancon requested for the Third Congressional District this year can be found on his website by [clicking here](#).

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